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**TEACHERS RECOGNIZED AS PIONEERS**

LITTLE ROCK – Several teachers were recognized Thursday by the State Board of Workforce Education and Career Opportunities as pioneers in bringing innovative curriculum to Arkansas high schools.

Becky Kersy, Donna Ricketts and Connie Cox of Bentonville; Nelda Reed and Kathy Woodcock of Conway; Debbie Martin and Carol Jefferson of Harrison; Patty Marion, Betty Braswell and Shelli Jones of Mountain Home; and Marilyn Carrell and Kathleen Johnson of Springdale were honored for their work in implementing Computer Applications I, II and III at their high schools.

The three-semester pilot program, developed by the Springdale teachers, allows students to work at their own pace and cuts out much of the unnecessary repetition in traditional computer classes.

Upon completing the program, students will have mastered Word Processing I and II, Computer Business Applications and Desktop Publishing I, Sandra Porter, the

**(more)**

## **Teachers Recognized – 2**

business/marketing technology program manager with the Department of Workforce Education, said.

As part of implementing the curriculum, the teachers were required to attend a weeklong inservice plus several inservice days throughout the school year.

The board also recognized Chris Jennings of Valley View, Alantha Branch of Paragould, Paula Mooty of Prairie Grove, Mark Smith of Fayetteville, Jerry Reed of Brookland and Dephane Burnett of Mena for implementing an information technology fundamentals course at their junior high/middle schools. An exploratory-level course, the pilot program allows students to get a good foundation in information technology.

“The purpose of this class is to expose students to the world of technology,” Porter said. “They will leave the class with the knowledge and ability to make wise computer-related decisions.”

Before implementing the new curriculum this fall, the teachers participated in an intensive weeklong workshop in North Dakota.

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